

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report

September 2007

USA Comments

APPENDIX 3.7.6.

GUIDELINES FOR THE KILLING OF ANIMALS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PURPOSES

Article 3.7.6.5.

Table summarising killing methods described in Articles 3.7.6.6.-3.7.6.17.

Species	Age range	Procedure	Restraint necessary	Animal welfare concerns with inappropriate application	Article reference
Sheep and goats	...				
	neonates(up to maximum live weight of 10 kg)	captive bolt - non-penetrating	yes	non-lethal wounding	3.7.6.8. (See rationale for change below)*
	...				
Pigs	...				
	neonates only (up to maximum live weight of 10 kg)	captive bolt - non-penetrating	yes	Non-lethal wounding	3.7.6.8. (See rationale for change below)*
	...				

Article 3.7.6.8.

Captive bolt – non-penetrating1. Introduction

The gun should be placed on the front of the skull to deliver a percussive blow which produces unconsciousness in cattle (adults only), sheep, goats and pigs, and death in poultry and neonate sheep, goats, and pigs up to a maximum live weight of 10 kg. Bleeding should be performed as soon as possible after the blow to ensure the death of the animal.

***Comment/rationale:** We recommend limiting the use of captive-bolt non-penetrating as a method to produce death in swine that are no more than a maximum live weight of 10 kg. The guideline as initially proposed could potentially cause confusion as to whether it should be applied in the field based on age (neonate) and/or weight (10 kg live weight). In swine production, the term neonate generally refers to a piglet that has not been weaned. In the United States, neonates are typically weaned at 17 to 21 days of age and do not reach 10 kg until they are in the nursery and classified as nursery pigs not neonates. A large neonate weighing more than 10 kg could potentially be subjected to the use of a non-penetrating captive bolt

Article 3.7.6.17.

Cervical dislocation and decapitation1. Cervical dislocation (manual and mechanical)

a) Introduction

...

When the number of birds to be killed is small, and other methods of killing are not available, or are impracticable, conscious birds of less than 3 kilograms may be killed using cervical dislocation in a way that the blood vessels of the neck are severed and death is instantaneous.

Rationale: The revision of the text clarifies the intent of the guideline for the reader.

Article 3.7.6.18.

Pithing and bleeding2. Bleeding

a) Introduction

...

Bleeding out should be completed and any incision made should ensure the complete severance of either carotid arteries, or the vessels from which they arise (e.g. chest stick).

Rationale: Typographical error